

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Tank Units of Czech Army

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1. Tank Corps, subordinate to the General Headquarters of the Tank Command.

Headquarters: Olomouc (P50/N85).

C.O.: General Fusek [redacted] was Military Attaché to the USSR from May 1947 until the autumn of 1948. 50X1-HUM

Chief of Staff: Col. Emil Dolejšek, on General Staff. He is 50X1-HUM
[redacted]
C.O. of the 12 Tank Brigade from 1945 until 1947, and C.O. of the 23 Tank Brigade until 1949.

DOZ (Counter-Intelligence Officer): Staff Capt. Buchauer.

a. Artillery Command.

C.O.: Col. Jan Petr, age 55.

Chief of Staff: Col. Hejl.

Other Officers: Staff Capt. Stedry
Major Prat
Capt. Kron
Capt. Peterka
Capt. Drahos
Capt. Gongol

b. 6 Mortarized Regiment, "Hanacký" [redacted]

Headquarters: Olomouc.

C.O.: Col. Frajt.

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c. 13 Motorized Battalion.

Headquarters: Sumperk (P50/N69) and Cervena Voda (P51/N49).

d. 40 Motorized Battalion, "Tobrucky" [REDACTED]

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Headquarters: Uherske Hradiste (P50/T09); shifted to Hranice (P50/025) in spring of 1949.

e. 52 Artillery Regiment, "Dukelsky" [REDACTED]

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Headquarters: Bruntal (P50/N99).

C.O.: Col. (Art.) Jaroslav Stahala [REDACTED]

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Deputy C.O.: Lt. Col. Talmasek [REDACTED]

Chief of Staff: Major Andelsky.

DOZ: Staff Capt. Kratena [REDACTED]

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Operational Officer: Staff Capt. Bartu.

Training Officer: Staff Capt. Urbanec [REDACTED]

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Transportation
Officer:

Staff Capt. Mezlar.

Equipment:

2 Batteries, 25-pounders, howitzer [REDACTED] 1
Battery, 150-mm howitzer, German; [REDACTED]

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f. 209 Artillery Regiment.

Headquarters: Prerov (P50/003).

Equipment: 28 self-propelled guns, "Panzerfaenger"; 12 anti-tank guns, 17-pounders, [REDACTED] 12 75-mm guns, "PAK".

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2. 23 Tank Brigade, "Narodniho Hrdiny Jana Svermy" [REDACTED]

Headquarters: Milovice (051/G00).

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C.O.:

Tank Col. Edward Fachner, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He was formerly DOZ in Prague and C.O. of a tank training unit at Milovice. He relieved Col. Emil Dolejsek, who was transferred to Olomouc as Chief of Staff of the Tank Corps.

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Chief of Staff:

Staff Capt. Vantek, [REDACTED] a former DOZ from Prague.

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DOZ:

Lt. Fiala, whose predecessor was Staff
Capt. Sobeslavsky [REDACTED]

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Training Officer: Lt. Hromadko, who is at present in the USSR for four years' training in tank engineering.

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Other Officers: Lt. Col. Hora
Major Dvorak
Staff Capt. Klement Munzar
Capt. Musil
Capt. Balcar

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- a. 1 Tank Battalion The equipment of these battalions includes [] tanks; one company uses Challenger tanks.
b. 2 Tank Battalion The battalions have a total of 30 tanks, all in very good condition.

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- c. 78 Sub-Machine Gun Battalion
d. School for Reserve Officers of Tank Units
e. Troop Movements:

- 1) In December 1948 and January 1949, the 23 Tank Brigade was moved from Milovice to Strasice (N50/L34), and on 6 August 1949, the brigade began to return to Milovice and was to be completely moved by 10 September 1949. Instead of the 23 Tank Brigade, the 1 Tank Regiment from Milovice is stationed at Strasice.
- 2) About half of the vehicles and men from the dissolved 14 Tank Brigade at Turciansky Svaty Martin and from the 22 Tank Brigade at Dedice near Vyskov have been transferred to the 23 Tank Brigade.
- 3) In April 1949, the 23 Tank Brigade moved four tank companies, one transport company, a workshop platoon, and a headquarters platoon to the training center at Kynzward (N51/P57), probably for the spring and summer training activities.

Note: The 23 Tank Brigade is subordinate to the Tank Corps for training purposes, and to the 8 Motorized Division at Kolin (O51/M38) for operational reasons.

3. 12 Tank Brigade, "Ostravska" [] 50X1-HUM

Origin: Formed from 13 Tank Brigade organized in the USSR during the war and commanded by Col. Janko.

Organization: Similar to that of the 23 Tank Brigade.

Headquarters: Sternberg (P50/N86).

Equipment: Soviet T-34 Tanks.

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C.O.: Lt. Col. Hrubes, on the General Staff. []

Chief of Staff: Major Zubaty.

DOZ: Major Chabina.

Note: This brigade is subordinate to the Tank Corps.

- a. Tank Battalion.

Headquarters: Moravska Trebova (P50/N46).

- b. 53 Sub-Machine Gun Battalion.

Headquarters: Praslavice (O50/M32) or Sternberg (P50/N86).

C.O.: Col. Karel Zak []

50X1-HUM

DOZ: 1st Lt. Letecka.

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c. Troop Movements:

An unconfirmed report states that this battalion was transferred to Sternberg sometime in March 1949.

4. 21 Tank Brigade, "Volynskych Cechu".

Headquarters: Zatec (N51/F10).

Organization: Like that of the above brigades.

Equipment:

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C.O.: Lt. Col. Miksicek.

Note: This brigade is subordinate to the Tank Corps for purposes of training and to the 5 Motorized Division in Prague for operational purposes.

a. 44 Sub-Machine Gun Battalion.

5. 11 Tank Brigade.

Headquarters: Dedice near Vyskov/Moravia (O50/M45), formerly at Moravska Trebova.

Equipment: T-34s.

C.O.: Lt. Col. Dolezal.

Note: This brigade is subordinate to the Tanks Corps for the purpose of training and to the 3 Motorized Division at Krometiz (P50/N92) for operational reasons.

a. 54 Sub-Machine Gun Battalion

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Formerly subordinate to the 22 Tank Brigade, which was reduced to a cadre unit.

b. Anti-Aircraft Battery.

Headquarters: Moravska Trebova on 18 May 1949.

Equipment:

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c. 65 Sub-Machine Gun Battalion.

Headquarters: Olomouc.

Equipment: Machine Gun Company: 8 heavy machine guns, mark 38, Czech, air-cooled.

Company of Heavy Arms: 6 mortars, 80 mm "S";
4 anti-tank guns, 45 mm.

Artillery Troops: 4 anti-tank guns, 75 mm "S",
long-barreled, towed by "GAZ".

Other Companies: Sub-machine guns, Russian type;
rifles.

C.O.: Col. Matejcek

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Chief of Staff: Major Cuta.

DOZ: Staff Capt. Stuchel.

Training Officer: Staff Capt. Hubeny.

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Note: This battalion was subordinate to the 11 Tank Brigade until it moved from Moravska Trebova to Dedice. It is not now clear whether it is the 54 Sub-Machine Gun Battalion or the 65 Sub-Machine Gun Battalion that is stationed at Dedice.

6. 1 Tank Regiment []

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Headquarters: Strasice (N50/L34).

Equipment: 25-30 German tanks Panzer-IV.

C.O.: Col. Cap, age []

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a. 1 Tank Battalion.

b. 2 Tank Battalion.

c. Troop Movements:

In August and September, this regiment was transferred from Milovice to Strasice instead of the 23 Tank Brigade.

7. Cadre Units.

a. 23 Tank Brigade, []

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This brigade, stationed at Dedice near Vyskov, was reduced to a cadre unit on 15 May 1949. It serves only as a reserve battalion and is commanded by Staff Capt. JUDr Sura. Its materiel and men were transferred to other tank units.

b. 14 Tank Brigade, []

50X1-HUM

This brigade was stationed at Turciansky Svaty Martin and was dissolved sometime in 1949.

8. Composition of Tank Battalion.

Headquarters.

Headquarters Company: 140-150 men, 5 tanks, and about 46 vehicles.

2 Tank Companies: Each company has about 80 men and 10 tanks.

1 Transportation Company.

1 Auxiliary Company.

1 Signal Platoon.

1 Engineer Platoon.

9. Course for Platoon Commanders of Army Officers.

Headquarters: Nove Mesto nad Vahom (P49/T36).

Officer in Charge: Major Deml.

Deputy in Charge: Staff Capt. Jan Vystreil.

Subjects Taught: Liaison and Signal: Major Deml.

Tactics: Major Deml.

Telephonic Apparatus: Major Deml.

Radio Apparatus: Staff Capt. Vystreil.

Electrical Engineering: Staff Capt. Vystreil.

Welfare: Staff Capt. Vystreil.

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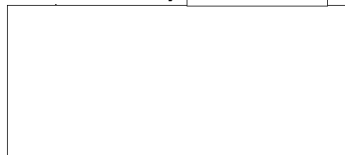
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Counter-Intelligence: 1st Lt. Firt, [redacted]



Students: Platoon commanders of tank units.

10. Miscellaneous Notes.

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- a. [redacted] In addition to the Tank Cadets, there is a School for Reserve Officers of the Tank Corps at Dedice.
- b. During 1949, about 2,000 cadets were promoted to lieutenant at Hranice. Eighty percent of them are members of the working class and they are already replacing older officers who are not members of the KSC.
- c. The new lieutenants do not have a good technical background, but they have memorized the book "Ten Years of Klement Gottwald".
- d. Each unit has within it a KSC organization called "Aktiv ". The "Aktiv" is composed of a chairman, a deputy chairman, and members of the KSC. It decides on the C.O., leaves of absence, promotions, accommodations, allowances, etc. In the 23 Tank Brigade at Milovice, the chairman of the "Aktiv" is Sgt. Major Brzak and the deputy chairmen is Lt. Col. Mraz.
- e. At Hranice, preparations are being made to train 4,000 cadets as officers at the next school period. Thus, within a few years, there will be no officers with pre-Munich training.
- f. Only reliable Communists are trained for tank units. Only 18 cadets of tank units were promoted to lieutenants during 1948, and 23 during 1949.

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